Buffalo State Hospital Libraries

Compiled by Amy Miller, Assistant Librarian, 2013

The Buffalo Psychiatric Center had at least three on-site libraries over the years. This is what we discovered about them.

Source	Description	Page
Tie Line (Ready Ref)	1899- Patient library is mentioned in annual report.	
Tie Line (Ready Ref)	1947- Library develops Braille class for those working with the blind.	
NA 108 .B8 R53 2008 Historic Structures Report : The Richardson Olmsted Complex	General Plan of the Buffalo State Hospital for the Insane, key #3 "Library". Possibly right side of administration building – Medical library.	p.3, plan top of page
NA 108 .B8 R53 2008 Historic Structures Report : The Richardson Olmsted Complex	"…the construction of specialized out-buildings such as tuberculosis pavilions, chapel, library, staff residences, and others."	p.5, #3; p.31 para.1 ; p.35 para.3
NA 108 .B8 R53 2008 Historic Structures Report : The Richardson Olmsted Complex	"The plan contained the … library in the next tier of spaces…The library also extends into such a salient on the right flank." Possibly the right side of the administration building – Medical library.	p.41 para. 1
NA 108 .B8 R53 2008 Historic Structures Report : The Richardson Olmsted Complex	"The Nurses' Home was constructed in 1893 to provide on-site accommodation. The building also housed a library for staff use."	p.80 para.2
NA 108 .B8 R53 2008 Historic Structures Report : The Richardson Olmsted Complex	HSR Name FTW, Built in 1909, original use as Female Tuberculosis Ward, Architect was Franklin B. Ware, subsequent use as a library and sewing room. 1900-1926 was vacant, Alternate building number 27, 13.	p.91; p.97; p.113; p.121; p.278
NA 108 .B8 R53 2008 Historic Structures Report : The Richardson Olmsted Complex	Date 1901, patient library, The hospital also maintained a library for patients with over 1,000 books.	p.100
NA 108 .B8 R53 2008 Historic Structures Report : The Richardson Olmsted Complex	Date 1946, The Patients' Library, The Patients Library also continued under the supervision of the Occupational Therapy Dept. At the time, the library had 2693 books and 49 periodicals.	p.115
NA 108 .B8 R53 2008 Historic Structures Report, July 2008 : The Richardson Olmsted Complex	"Patient Care- The 'Main Building' V-shape cluster of wards, kitchens, dining halls and other free-standing buildings such as the chapel, library, TB cottages, etc.	p.326

Source	Description	Page
SB 483 .B8 O467 2008 Cultural Landscape Report, October 2008 : The Richardson Olmsted Complex	1953- The Ladies Garden Club cares for the garden near the library. 1955- The Ladies Garden Club meets on Fridays in the summer and care for the flowers and plants around the library and sewing room.	p.24 of Appendix B

1. Medical Library: Administration building

2. Nurses' Library: Nurses Home

3. Patients' Library: Outbuildings /Cottages & Female Tuberculosis Ward. Possibly a library for the male ward and another for the female ward.